



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
2000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-2000

OPNAVINST 5440.76A
N801S2
25 October 2004

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 5440.76A

From: Director, Navy Staff

Subj: AUTHORIZATION PROCESS FOR SHIP RETIREMENTS, TRANSFERS
BETWEEN ACTIVE STATUS TO NAVAL RESERVE FORCE AND
MILITARY SEALIFT COMMAND AND STRIKING PROCEDURES

Ref: (a) SECNAV Memo of 24 Oct 94
(b) OPNAVINST 5442.2G
(c) OPNAVINST 5442.8
(d) OPNAVINST 4770.5F
(e) OPNAVINST 4780.6D
(f) ASN(RD&A) memo of 14 Nov 95

1. Purpose. To issue Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) procedures for authorizing ship retirements, transfers between active status and the Naval Reserve Force (NRF) and Military Sealift Command (MSC), and striking ships from the Naval Vessel Register (NVR).

2. Cancellation. OPNAV INSTRUCTION 5440.76

3. Discussion.

In accordance with reference (a), the Secretary of the Navy is the approval authority for the change in status of all ships, active or inactive, of the United States Navy (including MSC). Thus, these vessels may not be decommissioned, deactivated, stricken, transferred to the custody of a foreign government or any other United States Government agency, without direct authorization of the Secretary of the Navy. Changes in status of all vessels will be reported to the NVR custodian.

Aircraft strike procedures are listed in reference (b) and authorization is indicated in reference (c).

4. Applicability. This instruction applies to all active and NRF commissioned ships of the Navy and those MSC vessels contributing to the Navy's deployable battle force count. Retirements and transfers, as used here, include decommissioning, inactivation (including commencement of inactivation availabilities), and transferring between active status and NRF or MSC.

5. Action.

a. Ship requirement and transfers to NRF and MSC authorization process.

(1) OPNAV Resource and Requirements Sponsors will commence the retiring or transferring process when presenting their Sponsor Program Proposals (SPPs) during development of the Program Objective Memorandum (POM) in even numbered years or Sponsor Change Proposals (SCPs) in odd numbered years. The SPPs will address ship retirements and transfers to the NRF or MSC for the POM years promulgated in the current Ships and Aircraft Supplemental Data Tables (SASDT). SPPs may also propose any changes to the SASDT schedule with supporting rationale. Recommendations will be approved by SECNAV and published in an updated version of the SASDT.

(2) Prior to the start of each fiscal year, CNO will request, by memo, SECNAV's permission to decommission those ships planned for retirement during the ensuing fiscal year. Transfers between active status and NRF or MSC do not require SECNAV approval.

(3) After SECNAV approval, OPNAV Resource and Requirements Sponsors will authorize appropriate commands to decommission subject ships on approved dates. CNO will also authorize ship transfers between active status and NRF or MSC, as required. Ships will be inactivated in accordance with reference (d).

(4) OPNAV Resource and Requirements Sponsors who desire to change the approved retirement/transfer plan published in the POM and updated in the SASDT will submit requests to CNO (N80) for approval by the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Resources, Requirements and Assessments) (N8). If the desired change would occur before SECNAV's approval of the next annual memo, N8 will coordinate CNO and SECNAV approval.

(5) After SECNAV's approval of the upcoming fiscal year retirements, CNO (N80) will provide a copy of the ship types, hull numbers and their retirement dates to the Office of Legislative Affairs.

(6) OPNAV Resource and Requirements Sponsors will coordinate ship retirement schedules with the OPNAV Inactive Ships Program Office and advise which retiring ships will be designated Out of Commission In Reserve or as non-retention assets.

b. Striking.

(1) The OPNAV Inactive Ships Program Office will initiate correspondence to SECNAV recommending ships determined unfit for further service or no longer essential to the Navy's requirements, be stricken from the NVR prior to final disposal.

(2) Nuclear-powered ships and submarines are stricken concurrent with their decommissioning. Reference (d) is germane.

(3) Process for placing vessels designated as "support/service craft" (excluding submersibles) out of service and striking of them from the NVR will be in accordance with guidance provided by reference (e). Per reference (f), Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Ship Programs (DASN (Ships)) is the approval authority for striking craft from the NVR.

c. Responsibility.

(1) Director, Programming Division (N80) will coordinate the entire process established in this instruction with respect to ships.

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(2) Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Warfare Requirements and Programs) will be the OPNAV principal making recommendations to the Office of the Secretary of the Navy regarding striking ships from the NVR.

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